

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended)

A tap insert as defined in claim ~~27~~ 22, wherein the seal is polytetraflouroethylene Teflon.

13. (Currently Amended)

A tap insert as defined in Claim ~~25~~ 19, wherein the shut-off body is a cone or cylinder.

14-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended)

Tap insert for closing or separating conduits which can be installed in a valve housing connected with a conduit, comprising:

a device for connecting a tap insert with the valve housing, said connecting device having an external thread on an outside surface which can be screwed into the valve housing;

a ~~stop~~ shut-off body rotably disposed in the device, said ~~stop~~ shut-off body provided with a through channel;

an actuating device for rotating the ~~stop~~ shut-off body; and

a shut-off body housing surrounding the shut-off body, the shut-off body housing closing the through channel when in a closed position, the shut-off body housing provided with shut-off surfaces on its exterior that lie on a valve seat of the valve housing, wherein the length of the tap insert is adjustable.

20. (Currently Amended)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 19, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises ~~comprising~~ a sealing material.

21. (Currently Amended)

A tap insert as defined in Claim ~~26~~ 20, wherein the sealing material is polytetraflouroethylene.

22. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 19, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises metal or plastic; and a seal is provided on the shut-off body housing.

23. (Currently Amended)

~~A tap insert as defined in Claim 19,~~ Tap insert for closing or separating conduits which can be installed in a valve housing connected with a conduit, comprising:

a device for connecting a tap insert with the valve housing, said connecting device having an external thread on an outside surface which can be screwed into the valve housing;

a shut-off body rotably disposed in the device, said shut-off body provided with a through channel;

an actuating device for rotating the shut-off body; and

a shut-off body housing surrounding the shut-off body, the shut-off body housing closing the through channel when in a closed position, the shut-off body housing provided with shut-off surfaces on its exterior that lie on a valve seat of the valve housing, wherein the shut-off body housing consists of two parts that are held together by a sleeve that encloses at least a portion of both parts.

24. (Currently Amended)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 23, wherein the two parts of the shut-off body housing are comprised of Teflon polytetrafluoroethylene and the sleeve is comprised of brass.

25. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 23, wherein the shut-off body is a ball, cone or cylinder.

26. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 23, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises a sealing material.

27. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 23, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises metal or plastic and a seal is provided on the shut-off body housing.

28. (Currently Amended)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 25 49, wherein the shut-off body is a ball.

29. (Currently Amended)

~~A tap insert as defined in Claim 19;~~ Tap insert for closing or separating conduits which can be installed in a valve housing connected with a conduit, comprising:

a device for connecting a tap insert with the valve housing, said connecting device having an external thread on an outside surface which can be screwed into the valve housing;

a shut-off body rotably disposed in the device, said shut-off body provided with a through channel;

an actuating device for rotating the shut-off body; and

a shut-off body housing surrounding the shut-off body, the shut-off body housing closing the through channel when in a closed position, the shut-off body housing provided with shut-off surfaces on its exterior that lie on a valve seat of the valve housing;

a first sleeve, said first sleeve guided in the connecting device so as to adjust the length of the tap insert; and

a second sleeve that has a thread and fits on the first sleeve, said second sleeve is located on an end of the connecting device distal from the valve housing.

30. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 29, wherein the shut-off body is a ball, cone or a cylinder.

31. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 29, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises a sealing material.

32. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 29, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises metal or plastic and a seal is provided on the shut-off body housing.

33. (Currently Amended)

~~A tap insert as defined in Claim 19, further~~ Tap insert for closing or separating conduits which can be installed in a valve housing connected with a conduit,
comprising:

a device for connecting a tap insert with the valve housing, said connecting device having an external thread on an outside surface which can be screwed into the valve housing;

a shut-off stop body rotably disposed in the device, said shut-off stop body provided with a through channel;

an actuating device for rotating the shut-off stop body;

a shut-off body housing surrounding the shut-off body, the shut-off body housing closing the through channel when in a closed position, the shut-off body housing provided with shut-off surfaces on its exterior that lie on a valve seat of the valve housing;

a first sleeve, said first sleeve guided in the connecting device so as to adjust the length with the tap insert; and

a second sleeve that has a thread and fits on the first sleeve, said second sleeve is located on an end of the connecting device distal from the valve housing;

wherein said shut-off body is a ball, cone or cylinder.

34. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 33 35, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises a sealing material.

35. (Previously Presented)

A tap insert as defined in Claim 33 35, wherein the shut-off body housing comprises metal or plastic and a seal is provided on the shut-off body housing.